

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /083 W

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R 271115Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2960

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CE

SUBJ: NEW ROUND OF CIA ALLEGATIONS

REF: COLOMBO 1744; COLOMBO 1767; COLOMBO 1835

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS JUNE 27, MINISTER OF FINANCE N.M. PERERA REVIVED CIA ALLEGATIONS IN SPEECH TO STENOGRAPHERS' UNION PREVIOUS DAY. PERERA'S LATEST CHARGES APPEARED UNDER FRONT-PAGE FOUR-COLUMN HEADLINE IN CEYLON DAILY MIRROR READING "FANTASTIC TO SAY THERE IS NO CIA ACTIVITY IN SRI LANKA." ENGLISH AND VERNACULAR VERSIONS ALL QUOTE PERERA AS CLAIMING "WE WILL HEAR ABOUT CIA ONLY AFTER WE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED" AND DECLARED CIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ALLENDE'S DEATH IS NOW ADMITTED BY UNITED STATES. JANADINA (LSSP) VERSION DECLARED "SRI LANKA WAS ONLY COUNTRY WHICH SAYS CIA HAS DONE NO WRONG." REMAINDER OF SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO "BIG POWER" DISAGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ISSUES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF UNITED FRONT.

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2. AMB HAS REGISTERED WITH MDFA SECRETARY

JAYASINGHE HIS CONCERN OVER THIS LATEST CASE OF
GSL MINISTER GRATUITIOUSLY MAKING PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS
AGAINST US. NOTED, HOWEVER, HE WAS PLEASED THAT
SPEECH HAD NOT BEEN REPORTED SO FAR IN LAKE HOUSE
PRESS. IF ANY MINISTER HAD ANY SUSPICIONS THIS
REGARD, AMB EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GSL WOULD
FIRST RAISE MATTER WITH HIM BEFORE PUBLIC STATEMENTS
ARE MADE. JAYASINGHE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY AMB'S
COMMENTS TO PRIME MINISTER.

3. COMMENT: PERERA'S LATEST CHARGES FOLLOWED BY
THREE DAYS HIS RETURN FROM SERIES OF ECONOMIC AND
FINANCE MEETINGS ABROAD. LATEST CHARGES MAY BE
DESIGNED TO SEIZE INITIATIVE FROM UNP, WHICH
REPORTEDLY HOPED TO EXPLOIT DIFFERENCE OF OPINION
BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE AND PERERA ON
CIA AND PL-480 ISSUES WHEN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY
RECONVENES JULY 1. FOR FIRST TIME SINCE MID-APRIL,
PRIME MINISTER AND PERERA ARE IN SRI LANKA
SIMULTANEOUSLY (PM RETURNED JUNE 25). PERERA, IT
APPEARS, WILL NOT ALLOW TOPICS TO FADE AWAY. HIS
REFERENCE TO SRI LANKA'S ALLEGED NAIVETE ABOUT
CIA COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AIMED AT PRIME MINISTER'S
STATEMENT OF JUNE 3 (COLOMBO 1767).
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ESPIONAGE, PRESS COMMENTS, PL 480, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: woolflhd
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COLOMB02034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750224-0391
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975067/aaaaafjv.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COLOMBO 1744, 75 COLOMBO 1767, 75 COLOMBO 1835
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: woolflhd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by woolflhd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ROUND OF CIA ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CE, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006